

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS ON FORD DEMIREL TALK, HELSINKI ACTION, EMBARGO

1. THE MEETING AT HELSINKI BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME
MINISTER DEMIREL, THE TURKISH DELEGATION'S REACTION TO SPEECHES
BY ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS AND PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS, AND
EFFORTS IN THE CONGRESS TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO DOMINATED THE
FRONT PAGES OF THE TURKISH PRESS FRIDAY (AUG 1). THE SENATE
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VOTE, HOWEVER, CAME TOO LATE TO BE REPORTED IN MOST FRIDAY

EDITIONS.

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S JULY 31 NEWS CONFERENCE RECEIVED LITTLE SEPARATE ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH THE SMALL CONSERVATIVE ANKARA DAILY, ZAFER, CARRIED A BANNER HEADLINE: "DEMIREL REFUSED FORD'S 50 MILLION DOLLAR PROPOSAL" ON THE BASIS OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.

3. SIMILARLY, DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TURKISH TAKEOVER OF COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS RECEIVED FAR LESS ATTENTION THAN EARLIER THIS WEEK. HOWEVER, HURRIYET'S FRONT PAGE BANNER HEADLINE SAID: "AMERICA CANNOT EVEN GET A NEEDLE OUT OF THE BASES". THE HEADLINE WAS BASED ON A REMARK ATTRIBUTED BY A HURRIYET REPORTER IN HELSINKI TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL. IN OTHER COVERAGE, GUNAYDIN REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO A WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPER, PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL HAD AGREED PRIOR TO THEIR TRIPS TO HELSINKI THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON U.S. INSTALLATIONS WOULD REMAIN UNDER U.S. CONTROL. ONLY MILLIYET PICKED UP SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S NEWS CONFERENCE OF WEDNESDAY, WHICH IT REPORTED UNDER THE HEADLINE ON PAGE 6: "U.S. DEFENSE MINISTER: WE MAY LOSE ALL OUR BASES IN TURKEY."

4. AMONG ACCOUNTS OF THE FORD-DEMIREL MEETING, HURRIYET REPORTED THAT DEMIREL HAD TOLD THE PRESIDENT: "IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED THAT A RESULT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE TALKS BETWEEN US CONCERNING THE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS WHILE THE EMBARGO CONTINUES."

HURRIYET ALSO REPORTED DEMIREL AS SAYING: "TO PUT OUR RELATIONS ON A NORMAL FOOTING, TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN US, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE EMBARGO DECISION BE CANCELLED."

5. MILLIYET'S CORRESPONDENT IN HELSINKI, MEHMET ALI BIRAND, QUOTED "FOREIGN OBSERVERS AND AMERICAN JOURNALISTS" AS CHARACTERIZING DEMIREL'S REMARKS TO PRESIDENT FORD AS "QUITE CONCLICATORY." THESE SOURCES SAID, "ON THE QUESTION OF REOPENING THE BASES POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS WERE SEEN." BIRAND SAID THAT ACCORDING TO LEAKED INFORMATION DEMIREL TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT THE EMBARGO MADE THE CYPRUS ISSUE MORE DIFFICULT. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR TURKISH JOURNALISTS, BIRAND REPORTED, DEMIREL REPEATED THE VIEW THAT THE EMBARGO WAS A GREAT ERROR ON THE PART OF CONGRESS, THAT IT WAS AN ACT OF HOSTILITY RATHER THAN FRIENDSHIP, AND, "IT'S UP TO THE UNITED STATES TO PUT U.S. - TURKISH RELATIONS IN ORDER."

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STATES FAR MORE THAN US TO PUT U.S. - TURKISH RELATIONS IN ORDER."

6. CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN'S CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT FOLLOWING THE BREAKFAST MEETING, DEMIREL DECLARED THAT, "I CAN DEFINITELY SAY THIS, THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO IS NOT IN THE HANDS OF MR. FORD. IT RESTS WITH THE CONGRESS AND TO INCLUDE CYPRUS IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS IS A VERY FAULTY ATTITUDE." THE TERCUMAN REPORTER ALSO QUOTED THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER AS SAYING,

"AS FAR AS TURKEY IS CONCERNED, RELATIONS WITH AMERICA ARE VERY VALUABLE. WE DID ALL IN OUR POWER TO PREVENT DETERIORATION OF THESE RELATIONS."

7. IN ADDITION TO EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE HELSINKI MEETINGS, PRO-REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY NEWSPAPERS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO A STATEMENT BY RPP CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT, WHO ACCUSED THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT OF "PASSIVITY" ON THE CYPRUS REPRESENTATION ISSUE. ECEVIT SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN AN UNFORTUNATE CONCESSION IN MERELY DECLARING ITS RESERVATIONS ABOUT MAKARIOS REPRESENTING CYPRUS. ECEVIT REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT THE GOT SHOULD HAVE INSISTED ON SEPARATE REPRESENTATION FOR THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION.

8. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN FIRDAY EDITIONS ON DEVELOPMENTS AT HELSINKI CLOSELY REFLECTED DOMESTIC POLITICAL SYMPATHIES. THUS, OPPOSITION CUMHURİYET IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT TURKEY WAS ISOLATED AT HELSINKI. "OUR GREATEST ALLY, THE U.S., AND OUR OTHER NATO ALLIES ARE LOOKING AT US WITH COLD AND EVEN HOSTILE GLANCES" SAID CUMHURİYET. IT SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT HAVING MADE CLEAR TO TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION ITS POSITION ON TURKEY'S VITAL INTERESTS. LEFTWING GUNAYDIN ALSO STRESSED THIS THEME IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL: "SINCE NO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE YET, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT DEMIREL BROUGHT TO HELSINKI AND WHAT HE WILL BRING BACK. THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH, MUCH BETTER IF HE HAD GONE TO HELSINKI WITH THE FULL BACKING OF THE OPPOSITION AND PUBLIC OPINION."

9. IN CONTRAST, PRO-JUSTICE PARTY SON HAVADIS DECLARED IN A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL THAT: "THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE NOW FOCUSED ON HELSINKI AND THE EYES OF HELSINKI ARE FOCUSED ON PRIME MINISTER SULEYMAN DEMIREL OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY. DEMIREL, UNCLASSIFIED

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AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A DIGNIFIED FOREIGN POLICY, ATTRACTS ATTENTION. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THE CONSCIENTIOUS AND PATRIOTIC FOREIGN POLICY PURSUED BY THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT. MR. DEMIREL HAS SHOWN THE WORLD THAT TURKEY IS NOT A SATELLITE, BUT AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL ORDER IN THE WORLD..."
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